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(54) **FILL-THROUGH-THE-TOP PACKAGE AND METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR MAKING THE SAME**

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(List continued on next page.)

(75) **Inventors:** Toby R. Thomas, Pittsford; Samuel D. Aversa, Farmington; John D. Athans, Victor, all of NY (US)

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(73) **Assignee:** Pactiv Corporation, Lake Forest, IL (US)

(*) **Notice:** Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 0 days.

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(58) **Field of Search** 53/133.2, 133.3, 53/133.4, 139.2, 562, 570, 284.7, 410, 412, 455, 459, 469; 493/213, 214, 215, 927

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Primary Examiner—John Sipos

(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm—Jenkins & Gilchrist*

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A fill-through-the-top reclosable package includes first and second opposing body panels joined to each other along a pair of sides and a bottom bridging the pair of sides. The package is provided with a reclosable fastener extending along a package top disposed opposite the bottom. The fastener includes first and second opposing tracks. The first track includes a male profile, while the second track includes a female profile adapted to releasably interlock with the male profile. To provide tamper evidence, the first and second tracks may be joined to each other along an area of weakness. When making the package, the first track is first attached to the first panel, the package is filled with a product via a fill opening between the second track and the second panel, and then the second track is attached to the second panel.

16 Claims, 8 Drawing Sheets

